AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please make the following amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for an enterprise system to evaluate and rank probabilistic search rules for searching a computer database of records according to an efficiency measure of each search rule, comprising the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein a combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to [[the]] a probability of each search rule locating the target record; and

calculating [[a]] the probability [[for]] of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability [[for]] of each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record ,

wherein at least one of the collected counts corresponds to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves one or more records as possible matches to the target record, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record previously retrieved by a previously executed search rule, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record that was not retrieved by a previously executed search rule, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a plurality of records wherein the plurality of records are subsequently determined to correspond to the target record, or to a number of records of the plurality of retrieved records determined not to be the target record.

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2-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable medium having a program for evaluating and ranking ~~exact and~~ probabilistic search rules, the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein the combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to [[the]] a probability of each search rule locating the target record; and

calculating [[a]] the probability [[for]] of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability [[for]] of each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record,

wherein one of the collected counts corresponds to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves one or more records as possible matches to the target record, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record previously retrieved by a previously executed search rule, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record that was not retrieved by a previously executed search rule, or to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves a plurality of records wherein the plurality of records are subsequently determined to correspond to the target record, or to a number of records of the plurality of retrieved records determined not to be the target record.

13-40. (Cancelled)

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41. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for an enterprise system to evaluate and rank probabilistic search rules for searching a computer database of records according to an efficiency measure of each search rule, comprising the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein a combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to a probability of each search rule locating the target record;

calculating the probability of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability for each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record,

where calculating [[a]] the probability further comprises calculating a percentage of rule firings in which a corresponding search rule finds a possible match.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for an enterprise system to evaluate and rank probabilistic search rules for searching a computer database of records according to an efficiency measure of each search rule, comprising the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein a combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to a probability of each search rule locating the target record;

calculating the probability of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability for each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record,

where calculating [[a]] the probability further comprises calculating a percentage of possible matches found by a rule ~~that~~ , wherein the possible matches are determined to be actual matches.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~The program of claim 12,~~ A computer readable medium having a program for evaluating and ranking ~~exact and~~ probabilistic search rules, the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein a combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to a probability of each search rule locating the target record;

calculating the probability of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability for each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record,

where calculating [[a]] the probability further comprises calculating a percentage of rule firings in which a corresponding search rule finds a possible match.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The program of claim 12,~~ A computer readable medium having a program for evaluating and ranking ~~exact and~~ probabilistic search rules, the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of:

implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein a combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

collecting a plurality of counts related to a probability of each search rule locating the target record;

calculating the probability of each search rule locating the target record;

arranging the search rules in an order based on the probability for each search rule; and

executing the search rules according to the order to retrieve the target record,

where calculating [[a]] the probability further comprises calculating a percentage of possible matches found by a rule ~~that~~ , wherein the possible matches are determined to be actual matches.

45-50. (Cancelled)